



# Guardian Ad Litem Public Meeting Minutes

Guardian Ad Litem Board

Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 1:00 PM EDT

## Attendance

### Present:

Members: Kevin Avard, Jay Buckey, Caroline Delaney, Susan Duncan, Edward Gordon, Jennifer Knox-Dassau (remote), Mary Jane Wallner

### Absent:

Members: Henrietta Luneau

Kevin Avard excused himself at 2:15 p.m.

I. Call To Order at 1:09

II. Welcome Mary Jane Wallner - The Board is very excited to have you.

III. Remote Attendance

Meeting called to order. If a voting member has been allowed to attend remotely, identify that member, have them check that they can clearly hear and be heard, and that they are alone in the room. Note that all votes must be via roll call vote if any voting member is attending remotely.

### Motion to Approve

Jennifer Dassau requesting to attend via zoom - Sickness

Motion moved by EG and motion seconded by JB. roll call vote 6-0-1 JD abstained.

IV. Review of Draft Public Minutes 4/23/24

### Motion to approve as Amended

Motion moved by Caroline Delaney and motion seconded by Kevin Avard. roll call vote 6-0-1 Mary Jane Wallner abstained.

V. Public Appearances

VI. OPLC and/or Board Administration Updates

A. Rule Making Request by OPLC

### Renewal Application Question

The Guardian ad Litem Board asks the following in their renewal application: Have you ever, since the last filing of an application, been a party to any family law or domestic relations proceeding, or any other non-criminal court case, proceeding or action of any type, in this or any other jurisdiction, including but not limited to any civil, equity, landlord/tenant, probate, bankruptcy, forfeiture, or other action, proceeding or matter of any type whatsoever, other than traffic or parking offenses as a violation or cases in which the person served solely in the capacity of a guardian ad litem?

Apparently, there are GALs (39 in the state total) who we think are not reading the question all the way through, and are checking “Yes”, not realizing their work as a GAL is exempted. It’s causing the system to put a hold on their applications and slowing things down.

OPLC suggested wording:

Other than traffic or parking offenses as a violation or cases in which the person served solely in the capacity of a guardian ad litem, have you ever, since the last filing of an application, been a party to any family law or domestic relations proceeding, or any other non-criminal court case, proceeding or action of any type, in this or any other jurisdiction, including but not limited to any civil, equity, landlord/tenant, probate, bankruptcy, forfeiture, or other action, proceeding or matter of any type whatsoever?

**Motion** to initiate rulemaking process as outlined in VI (a) above

Motion moved by Jay Buckey and motion seconded by Caroline Delaney. roll call vote 7-0-0

B. MOU with Casa Program

Board Counsel advised the Board to engage in rulemaking regarding the CASA Program. The Board has statutory mandates related to the CASA program. MOU was signed in 2023. The rule writing would outline the process for this oversight. MOU is not proper for the board to regulate this program. Board was advised to engage in rulemaking with respect to CASA from their 2011 Audit.

**Motion** to Table Indefinitely

Motion moved by Kevin Avard and motion seconded by Ed Gordon. roll call vote 5-0-1 Carolyn Delaney abstained and Jennifer Dassau was off the zoom meeting.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

A. Standing Order for Board Review

**Motion** to approve the Standing Order

Motion moved by Kevin Avard and motion seconded by Jay Buckey. roll call vote 6-0-1 Jennifer Dassau was off of zoom.

IX. Licensure Update / Informational

A. Applications Granted

B. Kristen from the Coalition - wants to come in and provide input regarding the training that took place for the GALs in June. She wants to provide the Board with an overview.

C. Website/List request

Ned Gordon tried to get a list of Guardian ad Litem’ from the Boards website. It is very difficult to get a list from the website. He wants a list that he can select, and it shows a list of all GALs in alphabetical order.

D. Applications Denied

E. Reasons for delay of approval of applications

X. Administrative Rules & Legislative Topics

XI. Non-Public Session

Non-Public session conducted for the purpose of discussing investigations of alleged licensee misconduct and other confidential Board business. Such a non-public session is authorized by RSA 91-A:3, II (c) & (e), RSA 91-A:5, IV, *Lodge v. Knowlton*, (1978), and the Board's executive and deliberative privileges.

**Motion** to move into NP session at 1:48

Motion moved by Kevin Avard and motion seconded by Jay Buckey. roll call vote 7-0-0

XII. Resume Public Session at 3:19

XIII. Seal The Minutes of the Non-Public Session

Seal The Minutes of the Non-Public Session

Minutes of the non-public session are sealed to maintain the privacy of the items discussed in non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c), on the grounds that public disclosure may adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a Board member or render the proposed action ineffective.

**Motion** to Seal the Non-Public Minutes and Non-Public Session

Motion moved by Jay Buckey and motion seconded by Edward Gordon. roll call vote 5-0-0.

XIV. Adjournment at 3:20